

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: RASHIDOV SUPPORTS DETENTE AT REPUBLIC CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. ELECTIONS TO UZBEK PARTY BUREAU SHOW MARKED LEADERSHIP STABILITY. RASHIDOV FAVORABLY NOTES BREZHNEV'S CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS. BREZHNEV IS PRAISED, BUT RASHIDOV DOES NOT USE "POLITBURO HEADED BY" FORMULATION IN REFERENCES TO HIM. END SUMMARY

2. THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF THE UZBEKISTAN PARTY BUREAU INDICATES A HIGH DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP STABILITY IN THE REPUBLIC. ONLY THE REPUBLIC KGB CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE SIXTEEN FULL AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY BUREAU.

3. ALTHOUGH THE CONGRESS BEGAN BY ELECTING "THE POLITBURO HEADED BY L. I. BREZHNEV" TO ITS HONORARY PRESIDIUM, THIS FORMULATION WAS NOT REPEATED IN EITHER THE REPORT OF SH. P. RASHIDOV, THE PARTY FIRST SECRETARY, OR IN THE UZBEK PARTY LETTER TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN BOTH THE REPORT AND THE LETTER, HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE PRAISE WAS ACCORDED TO BREZHNEV. BOTH DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED HIM AS THE MOST DISTINGUISHED POLITICAL FIGURE OF THE MODERN

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ERA. THE PARTY LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO BREZHNEV AS WELL AS

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FREQUENTLY REFERRED TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY AS "DEAR LEONID IL'ICH." RASHIDOV POINTED OUT THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT AIMS AND TASKS OF THE PARTY AND STATE WERE WORKED OUT AND CARRIED OUT ON THE INITIATIVE AND WITH THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF BREZHNEV; RASHIDOV PARTICULARLY REFERRED TO BREZHNEV'S ROLE IN FORMULATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

4. RASHIDOV'S FEW FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS DIFFERED FROM THOSE OF THE LEADERS OF OTHER REPUBLICS BY NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF BREZHNEV'S MEETINGS WITH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE USA, FRG, FRANCE AND UK AND BY MENTIONING THE TASK OF GIVING THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AN IRREVERSABLE CHARACTER.

5. COMMENT: RASHIDOV'S TREATMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY INDICATES RELATIVELY STRONG SUPPORT FOR BREZHNEV'S POLICY OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH "CAPITALIST" COUNTRIES. HIS TREATMENT OF BREZHNEV PERSONALLY IS MILDLY PUZZLING: RASHIDOV FOR UNCLEAR REASONS SEEMS TO MAINTAIN A DEGREE OF FORMAL DISTANCE FROM BREZHNEV. STOESSEL

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